
For Immediate Release:

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SLC/ARBA Announces 2016 Best of Reference Award Winners

Santa Barbara, Calif. (June 24, 2016) –**School Library Connection (SLC)** and **American Reference Books Annual (ARBA)** have announced the winners of the fifth annual SLC/ARBA Best of Reference Award, which recognizes reference resources, including books, databases, and eBooks, that encourage K–12 student research and learning. Winners will be recognized today during a ceremony to be held at ALA Annual Conference in Orlando.

School Library Connection (SLC) and **American Reference Books Annual (ARBA)** both provide school librarians with reviews for building the collection that best complements school curricula, enables comprehensive student research, and promotes critical thinking. A dual-format resource comprising both a print magazine and a dynamic online learning platform, **School Library Connection** delivers practical articles in bimonthly print issues on the challenges that educators most often face, from guiding inquiry to differentiating instruction and from advocacy to assessment. Subscribers can choose among 25+ online, self-paced workshops covering three main topic areas, each edited by a school library thought leader. Each issue of the magazine also contains more than 300 reviews written by librarians, for librarians; on the online reVIEWS+ portal, librarians can browse an additional 5,000 product reviews based on criteria such as grade, Lexile, genre, and subject matter. This repository extends to ARBA, which houses more than 19,000 reviews of print and electronic references published by more than 400 publishers in more than 500 subject areas.

For the Best of Reference Award, a hand-selected panel of respected reviewers and editors evaluated all submissions to identify outstanding resources in the areas of overall reference K–12, resources for children (elementary grades), resources for youth (secondary grades), electronic reference (database or eBook), and professional guides for school or youth librarians. While making their selections, judges considered curriculum connections, authority, objectivity, organization, depth of coverage, and currency.

“As always, we received many exceptional entries reflecting excellence in resources for K–12 students and school librarians,” said Kathryn C. Suárez, publisher of **School Library Connection**. “By recognizing these exemplars, we continue to advance an important dimension of our mission: that is, equipping librarians to knowledgeably expand their collections in ways that enhance student research and learning. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners—collectively, the work of these publishers, authors, and editors signals an enduring commitment to quality.”

We are pleased to announce the following winners, listed by category:

Best Resource for Children (Elementary Grades)

Ultimate Reptileopedia (National Geographic)

Best Resource for Youth (Secondary Grades) and Best Overall Reference K-12

American Eras: Primary Sources: Development of a Nation (1783-1815) (Gale/Cengage Learning)

Best Electronic Reference Resource (Database or eBook)

Student Resources in Context (Gale/Cengage Learning)

Best Professional Guide for School or Youth Librarians

School Libraries 3.0 (Rowman & Littlefield)

About School Library Connection

A dual-format resource composed of a tangible print magazine and interactive online opportunities for professional development, **School Library Connection** combines research and inspiration from leaders in the library profession. School Library Connection subscribers know that student learning soars when librarians stay at the top of their practice. Topic centers curated by respected editors and prominent school library professionals Carl A. Harvey II, MS; Paige Jaeger, MLIS; and Rebecca J. Morris, PhD give insights in the areas of Organization and Management, Instructional Leadership, and Library in Context, respectively, while Sylvia Vardell, PhD and Liz Deskins, MA provide expert leadership to the reVIEWS+ portal of reviews written by librarians, for librarians, assisting librarians everywhere in building the collection that best meets the needs of their learning community.

About Libraries Unlimited: Publisher of American Reference Books Annual (ARBA)

For more than 50 years, Libraries Unlimited has served academic, public, school, and special libraries by producing library science textbooks, reference works, practical handbooks, and professional guides of unparalleled quality. Today, with more than 2,000 publications in both print and electronic formats, Libraries Unlimited continues its mission to cultivate and maintain a supportive community where librarians, archivists, and information specialists can learn about and discuss leading-edge trends and acquire new skills through every phase of their careers. Libraries Unlimited began a new chapter in 2008, becoming an imprint under the publishing umbrella of ABC-CLIO, LLC. For more information about SLC, Libraries Unlimited, or ABC-CLIO, please visit www.abc-clio.com/LibrariesUnlimited.aspx.